

Volume 3 Issue 6 March/April 1994

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ILLUSIONS

ISSUES OF THE TV/TS LIFESTYLE

REFERENCE USE ONLY

VEGAS SHOWGIRL

ONCE WAS A BOY

CENTERFOLD CINDY

TELLS US THE TALE OF THAT
VERY FIRST TIME

-A CROSSDRESSING PROFILE

SHE-MALES

BEAUTY PAGEANT

CLUB PERSONALS

ADS FROM AND FOR TV/TS'S

PASSING IN PUBLIC

306
ILL



ILLUSIONS CALENDAR

Calgary

March 12 Bingo & Entertainment
March 31 Ty Morgan Makeover
April 16 Walk & Talk Like a Lady
April 28 Photo Nite
May 14 Mystery Party Nite
May 26 Swap Meet
June 11 4th Birthday Party!
June 30 "TV" Talk Show

Edmonton

March 10 Regular Evening
April 14 Regular Evening
May 12 Regular Evening
June 9 Regular Evening

COMMUNITY EVENTS

April 17 Golden Pump Awards, 11pm
at BBX, \$3 Door charge
April 20 Imperial Roast, 10.30pm at Trax
\$3 Door charge
April 21 InTown Show, 11pm at BBX (\$3)
April 22 Out of Town Show at Boystown
11pm...\$5 Door charge
April 23 Coronation '94
Marlborough Inn
April 24 Tough Drag Show, 11pm at BBX
\$3 Door charge

July 1-3 Canadian Rockies International
Rodeo at Simons Valley Ranch

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS:

Please send us your stories or ads
before our next cut off date of

April 15!!!



AND NOW.....

A WORD FROM OUR EDITORS!!!.....

SPRING IS HERE!

Time to put away all that cold winter clothing and look ahead to some warm days and even warmer nites!

Well...as we look at our 1994 calendars... there are several things that come to mind... One is that this magazine is having its first birthday! The new format has been growing in leaps and bounds and the nurturing process has been very successful thanks to the efforts and submissions from lots of you gals. Keep those articles coming in and we'll be able to keep reaching out to new people along the way. This is an excellent vehicle for the club and its great to see the education process that its offering.

My second thought is that the calendar is starting to fill up with all kinds of great activities. Our own social committee has been busy creating and scheming all kinds of fabulous evenings for us to enjoy and participate in! Come on out and have some fun! "Coronation '94" is almost upon us and its a great chance to stretch out into the community and have some fun...while dressed up in your best sequins!

If you have ever wanted to watch alot of "show's" and be part of a glamorous evening...this is your chance..don't miss any of it!

Our 4th Birthday Party is only a couple of months away, and if any of you girls would like to help plan some ideas for that...let us know!

There's no reason to be bored this year...there's lots to do and be a part of.

In Garters and Gardening Gloves,
Barbie & Christine



Holly's long
walk from
the wild side

Illusions Departments

Viewpoint.....4

In skirts and on the soap box.

Beauty.....10

The best tricks for eyes and lips.

Fashion.....12

The truth about the latest fashion lies.

Volume 3, Issue 6

March/April 1994

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intentionally
blank due to
privacy considerations.

Social Events.....5

Illusions parties, now and later.

Welcome Mat.....18

Not Mat but Mary. Our new members.

The Personals.....33

Illusions registry of it's girls.

Illusions Editors:

Barbie, Christine, Lisa



She's a He!

contents

Illusions Features

Rock and Rouge.....8

Today's rock rebel has abandoned leather for silk.

Lou Reed's Holly.....9

She came from Miami F-L-A, and what a trip it was.

Passing in Public.....16

It isn't easy, but it's worth the try. Hints and stories.

Centerfold Cindy.....20

Her first time and everytime as a crossdresser

Elaine's View.....25

What she thinks of living with Cindy.

Vegas Showgirl.29

Fired for once being a boy

She-Males.....30

Philippine exotics beauty pageant

DO YOU WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MAKEUP?

Be at Illusions, Thursday March 31st 7:30 PM

Beauty consultant and entertainer, Ty Morgan will be giving us a demonstration on makeup application and tips for crossdressers.

A lucky gal will be chosen at the *Illusions*; Saturday, March 12 meeting for Ty's makeover.

To walk and talk like a lady

Come out to *Illusions* and improve your feminine image.

Saturday April 16th, 7:30 pm

[Author's note: I wrote this short piece on the night of January 15, 1994, after coming home from an Illusions social, having experienced a particularly rewarding evening. It seemed to me that the feelings with which I left the club that night, and the ones with which I left the club on the night of our Christmas pot luck dinner, were reminiscent of those I used to have following church services when I was a Christian many years ago, and I began to ponder the similarities between Illusions Social Club and a church. I wanted to preserve in print the specialness of the moment, and am happy now to share that moment with you.]

MY CHURCH: OUR LADY OF FEMININITY

I just came home from church tonight. I have that wonderful set of feelings one usually gets from attending church: a feeling of being loved, a feeling of hope and possibility, a feeling of being on the right track and of having done the right thing, a feeling of having been helped and wanting ever so much to help in return, a feeling of gratitude that is so great that if help could be quantified, one would eagerly give back many times what she has received; but it can't, so one just gives back as much as she can.

My church is founded on love and concern for the femininity within us. My church allows the freest expression of one's femininity, subject only to the social graces incumbent upon a lady, and to her own needs and capabilities. My church encourages and facilitates growth and evolution of one's femininity, but at each individual's own pace.

My sisters and I experience our femininity in different ways and intensities. Some of us come to church and go back home with unchanged feelings and knowledge, having enjoyed the fellowship we have experienced. Some of us experience an uplifting of spirit, an infusing of knowledge, and leave as better women for it, all the more able and willing to return next time and help

someone else experience the same. Perhaps a few of us are a little disappointed or disillusioned with the night's events or outcome, but almost always we will be back because our church is a real part of our lives and like all reality in our lives, it is imperfect and always changing. Indeed, we change it. My church exists for, and by, my sisters and I: without us, our church would have no purpose in, or means of, existing. Our church is us.

Kinda puts it in a new light for me when I think about it in this way. A nice light. A warm light. A welcoming light. See y'all in church!

Love and gratitude,

Fredelle

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Let The Fun Begin!

Your new Illusions Social Committee has planned a year of activity that will give you both fun and personal development.

Our first meeting was held on February 8th; it was a flurry of suggestions from five excited ladies, now seven. We are: Teri (Well known for her tempting ways with chocolate), Princess I-Colleen (Who can be found in a skirt, most any day of the week), Princess II-Karen (Never met a microphone or stage she didn't like), Princess III-Lisa (Never met a party dress or wig she didn't like), Fredelle (The doll with the dolls), Diane (If there's a shoe sale, she'll be there), and Melanie (Never afraid to say no to the word 'party').

We have had three very successful functions: Thursday Fashion Show, where Diane, Lisa, Karen and Stephanie modeled the latest lines available from Lingerie by Barbie. If only we could have owned it all. The Valentines, Trivia and Talent night in which there were prizes for the best TV trivia answers, (Not T.V. but TV, you know.) There was a follies for the best lip-synch to un-rehearsed music and a show-down of talent in best sexy walk and kiss blowing. Congratulations to the winners and we hope Wanda enjoys her heart panties grand-prize.

Our last Thursday in February was a social and demonstration night. Fredelle brought in her valuable doll collection and told us about the hobby. It's nice to see that we can engage in hobbies that reflect our feminine nature. The Social Committee meets every couple of weeks, if you would like to lend a manicured hand, please let us know. We regret that there are no extensive plans for our Edmonton chapter. Perhaps a social committee can be formed for activities there.

This area has been left intentionally blank due to privacy considerations.

Illusions Social Committee

Activities for the year have sketched out and details will be available in each issue of this magazine.

Sat. Mar 12	Bingo and Entertainment	Thurs. Jul	Summers Here Party
Thurs. Mar 31	Ty Morgan Make-up Session	Fri. Aug	*Girls of Summer II
Sat. Apr 16	Walk and Talk Like a Woman	Sat. Sept	Welcome Back, Vegas Nite
Thurs Apr 28	Photo Session	Thurs. Sept	Passport to Pleasure
Sat. May 14	Party and Entertainment	Sat. Oct	Dress for Pleasure II
Thurs May 26	Swap Meet	Thurs. Oct	Fashion Show
Sat. Jun 11	4th Birthday Party	Sat. Oct 29	*Halloween Outing
Thurs. Jun 30	Pretend TV Talk Show	Sat. Nov	TV Bingo
Sat. July	Stampede B. B. Q	Thurs Nov	Chance to Breathe Social
Sat. July	*Picnic in the Country	Sat Dec	Christmas Pot-luck
Outside of club functions are marked by *		The list is subject to change and suggestions	

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FIFTH COLUMN

MEN

Examining feelings about men who are sexually different remains a challenge for many, Peter Raeside says

A Man I have known for several years tells me he isn't sure he wants to be a man any more. He is contemplating the possibility of a sex-change operation that would, in effect, turn him into a woman.

I receive this disconcerting news at the same time that Philadelphia, Hollywood's first big budget film to confront the issue of homophobia, is drawing huge audiences around North America. Meanwhile, several U.S. Magazines are running articles about a burgeoning gay influence- from the new "gay chic" of campus social circles to a powerful gay lobby that reaches into the White House.

On all sides, it seems, men are beset by challenges to their attitude toward men who are sexually different. They are challenges men will have to embrace if a "community of men" is to become more than wishful rhetoric. They go to the very core of men's identity- an identity that many of us are reluctant to examine.

The transsexual man I know has very real fears about revealing his identity. He is terrified that his working life - not to mention his physical safety would be put in jeopardy.

"People see us as sexual perverts, but sex has very little to do with it," he says. "It's a question of feeling free to express ourselves as we really are - and I often feel more like a woman. We often hear of transsexuals being ridiculed or treated as freaks. And some get beaten up.

That animosity, of course, isn't anything new to the gay community, which has had to confront the menace of gay bashing for years. John Eldridge, a therapist who launched a self-protection plan against such assaults in Vancouver's gay community, says the typical gay basher is the young male who is insecure about his sexual identity. "We haven't found it to be an

individual thing," he says. "It's usually a case of bravado, of the teenager trying to impress the other guys - and the girls- that he's not a faggot. Sexuality is rampant at that time in a boy's life, and it often isn't that focused. But there's still alot of pressure on these kids to prove their manhood.

This bravado-based concept of manhood of course, is the very one that leaders in the men's community are trying to break down. There leaders -including bestselling authors Robert Bly and Sam Keen - have recognized the need to redefine masculinity in a way that would embrace all men, but at the local level there seems to be more of a slow evolution than any desire to meet the gay-straight issue head on.

"The broader men's movement has to come to terms with a certain homophobic tendency, but this isn't something you can push," says Peter Woodsworth, a group leader in Vancouver. The coming together between straight and gay men will happen when it needs to happen.

Dan Gawthrop, founding editor of the gay Vancouver newspaper Xtra West, says gay and straight men are dealing with issues of trust between them in more and more real life situations. "If more understanding is going to occur," he says, "it'll happen on the job, in seeing each other's lives and gradually learning not to fear each other.

Mr. Eldridge, whose therapy focus is men's development, says men have to realize there is more than one definition of being a man. He says we need to start looking at all the possibilities- sexual, emotional, psychological, spiritual.

The sexual one, naturally, is the toughest. When my friend told me he wasn't sure he wanted to be a man, it seemed to open a window into forbidden territory: I was able, scary though it was, to do a rough assessment of my own sexual identity.

I found myself posing a number of uncomfortable questions to myself: How willing would I be to publicly associate with a transsexual? Could I be attracted to this person sexually if he became a woman? Would that be a big deal? How secure was I in my own maleness?

And finally, the only question that really felt liberating: If the person was a friend, what did his sexual orientation matter?

by Peter Raeside

[Peter Raeside is a Vancouver writer and editor].
Toronto Globe and Mail... Feb 2, 94.



JACKIE UH-OH Kent Fuher moved to L.A. to be a poet and artist, only to find the overhyped poetry scene full of self-absorbed poseurs. His retaliation was the invention of an alter ego, Jackie Beat. "She was a Beat poetess who could bitch about the scene," he says. Jackie Beat quickly became an L.A. fixture, appearing at Trade, the dance club that Richard Glatzer used to run. There she staged her legendary version of Carrie, played entirely by sock puppets with button eyes. "It was abridged, of course," Beat notes. When Glatzer started writing Grief, he knew there was only one person to play Jo, the hefty producer who throws over her career for true love in Eastern Europe. On the festival circuit, Jackie Beat has already been hailed as the new Divine (the late star of John Waters fame), but the diva rejects the comparison as lazy- "just because we're both fat and in drag."

Beat can be found every Tuesday at L.A.'s LunaPark hosting "Fifteen Minutes," her faux Star Search variety show. She's next onscreen in Wigstock: The Movie, playing a drag queen from L.A. who comes to New York. It was Jackie Beat's first time ever in the big city. "I'm just a small-town girl from Scottsdale, Arizona," she laments. But now she's hooked on movies. "I want to do more. I'd even like to play a boy."—B.R.R.

DRAG IT OUT OF US

For those of us who missed LADY BUNNY, LYPSYNKA, RUPAUL, LADY MISS KIER and DEBBIE HARRY..... and the cast of 20,000 other performers and participants at last summer's Wigstock Festival ...Director Barry (Vampire's Kiss) Shils is readying a big screen documentary on the event for you. SHils says his film was inspired by Tom Rubnitz's short Wigstock the Movie that he sees drag as much more than just men dressing as women. "It's a whole new realm of sexuality," he explainss. These are performers that can bring male and female together unlike anyone else!



The Edmonton Journal

Monday, February 28, 1994

Bank card suits cross-dressers

Reuter

Edinburgh

A leading Scottish bank will allow transvestites to use two of its new cheque-cashing cards — one with a photo of them dressed as a man and the other as a woman.

"If any cross-dressing customers are confident enough to go shopping dressed as a woman, it's possible for them to have a second card so that they can avoid embarrassment or difficulties when paying by

cheque," a Royal Bank of Scotland spokesman said.

"It's at their local bank manager's discretion and subject to the usual safeguards."

The spokesman could not say how many cards were issued.

He pointed out it is easier when clients operate separate accounts in their male and female roles.

The Royal Bank said its introduction of cards carrying a photograph of the account-holder has cut fraud dramatically.

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Tinseltown TV with Sarah N. Dippity

What's new in the glam world of crossdressing

Rock and Rouge

Forget the blue jeans and leather, another rock n' roll rebel exists and she wears mascara and silk.



Crossdressing and rock, it's really nothing new, but today it's rising higher than a Madonna push-up bra. Did you see Aerosmith's 'Living on the Edge' video, Ru Paul and Elton John's, or a Nirvana CD?

Call it openness or fad, alot of music wears a dress in the 90's. The Grunge look has taken crossdressing with rockers like Kurt Cobain, Smashing Pumpkins, Evan Donda, Stone Temple Pilots and Afghan Whigs. For the first two, they

dress to defy masculinity and show solidarity for the 'riot grrl' scene. The rest do it more for costume and self promotion, or in the case of Perry Farrell, a dress allows him freedom of movement.

Of course the look isn't staying on video, it's gaining acceptance in the club scene and even to the streets where young men now sport kilts.

To tell which rock star was first to parade brazenly into crossdressing is unclear. The Rolling Stones dressed as a strange bunch of middle aged women for the cover on the single of 'Have You Heard Your Mother Baby (Standing in the Shadows?)' Mick Jagger went on to wear a white smock at the Hyde Park free concert in 1969 which was regarded to be a dress in all but name. The dandified rocker left even less to the imagination when he stared in the film. *Performance*. Swathed in body stocking, make-up and frilly blouses. Jagger's performance in *Performance* was so controversial that it was shelved until 1970.

Crossdressing on stage may have been controversial in the 70's, but today the attention seeking David Bowie's, Ziggy Stardust, The Man Who Sold the World album, Mr. Fish Dresses, and Boys keep swinging video seem a little everyday. Back then, Bowie was the queen of Rock n' roll.

Over on this side of the Atlantic New York's Avante Garde was taken over by Andy Warhol's flamboyant entourage of queens. Lou Reed celebrated these superstars with the songs. *Make-up and Walk on the Wild Side*. The later became an anthem for the queen and crossdressing community and so did the Kinks', *Lola* (Girls will be boys and boys will be girls.) *Continued next page, Frock Rock*

From the Wild Side and Back

'Holly came from Miami, F-L-A hitchhiked her way across the U.S.A. Plucked her eyebrows on the way, shaved her legs and then he was a she- She says, 'Hey babe, take a walk on the wild side.'"

Lou Reed

The song is based on truth girls, Holly or Holly Woodlawn as she calls herself, did come from Miami, and she did become a she.

Holly arrived in N.Y. with alot of hope, but no money, she had to make money by selling herself

on the street. it didn't last long because she met a man who wanted to care for her, and she became a housewife, in Queens of all places.

Holly must have passed well, for she had to find work to pay off her expensive clothing debts and became a department store model. She lived as a full-time woman now and felt *continued next page, Wild Side*



Rouge Rock, cont.

Later in the 70's, the pre-Punk *New York Dolls*, taunted God Fearing America by wearing dresses, which they had to abandon when they toured the south, fearing they wouldn't make it home alive. Vincent Furnier took on the name of a 19th century Ax murder and became *Alice Cooper*, mascara never ran down a face longer than on Alice.

Punk rock began. *Wayne County* became the transsexual, *Jayne County* (If You Don't Want to F*** Me Baby, Baby F*** Off.)

Captain Sensible of the *Damned* taunted macho audiences while wearing nurses uniforms and tutus. By the mid-80's, when dancing was popular again, clubs shook to the beat of *Divine*, *Boy George*, *Steve Strange*, *Pete Burns* and *Marilyn*. Many a sheik new waver wouldn't be seen without eye-liner and nail polish.

This article couldn't begin to be a complete list, there have been others I've not touched on, like *Queen*, the queens of tough drag videos. The Who said 'Long Live Rock', and so shall the queens of the realm!



Wild Side, cont.

loved. Her four year relationship ended when Holly couldn't decide on becoming a transsexual. She would become a go-go dancer, and that career went well until she was asked to take the g-string off.

She found her way into theater productions and the companionship the other Lou Reed heroines, Jackie and Candy Darling. Jackie never wanted to be a woman, but put on dresses in order to get Andy Warhol's attention. Her make-up was extreme, she wore ratty dresses, snagged nylons and had unruly hair. Yet she thought she was a beauty. Jackie was hard on herself, she was heavily addicted to amphetamines.

Then there's Candy. She was obsessed with glamour and Hollywood starlets, like Joan Crawford.

The trio were stars on Warhol's *Trash*, *Women in Revolt* and *Broken Goddess*. The N.Y. times wrote of Holly, "She is a comic book Mother Courage who fancies herself as Marlene Deitrich, but sounds more like Phil Silvers."

Warhol would turn his camera from Queens to Frankenstein and soon the trio faded from attention. No longer the darlings of the infamous, Max's Kansas City Bar and friend of stars like Robert DiNero, Jim Morrison and Rudolf Nureyev.

Tragedy struck with the death of Candy from cancer at the age of 22 in 1974 and Jackie from a heroine overdose in 1985.

Holly has since moved to, where else, Hollywood. She isn't on the edge as she once was, but is thankful she is still alive and has good friend still left.

She has had her biography published, *The Holly Woodlawn Story*. Available at the public library.

CLUE!

Magazine

Alberta's Only Gay & Lesbian Magazine

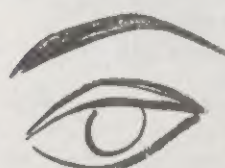
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beauty

NOTEBOOK

EYE-BRUSH KNOW-HOW

All about three special eye-makeup brushes and how to use them to create fabulous looks



ANGLED brush lines the eyes, focuses color in one area. Example: Apply pale beige shadow as base color over entire lid. Then, with angled brush, line top and bottom lids with raisin shadow and blend into crease at outer corner of eye.



CREASE brush is slightly larger, dome-shaped, great for creating dramatic effects. Example: Thinly line top lid with black eyeliner. Then with crease brush, apply light and smoky gray shadows at crease, starting off softly—you can always add more color for heightened drama.



BLENDING brush is round and full, larger than the others, and can be used to soften any makeup effect. Example: After applying liquid liner to top lid, lightly stroke on bronze shadow with blending brush (stop at the crease) for smooth finish.

TRICK OF THE TRADE **S**ounds-Gross-But-Really-Works Department: Take some Visine, the stuff that promises to "get the red out" of bloodshot eyes by soothing and shrinking inflamed blood vessels. Apply it as a quick fix for blemishes on the face. The Visine zaps zits into invisibility in nothing flat.



You don't want your lipstick to "bleed" beyond your lip line and make lips look messy. To help prevent bleeding, smooth foundation over top and bottom lips and powder lightly. Then, blot lips by holding a tissue firmly at the right corner of your mouth, gently pressing it away at the left corner. If you want a more matte look, powder lips lightly, then press them together.

Does the way you use your lipstick say something about your personality?

SHARP-ANGLED TIP

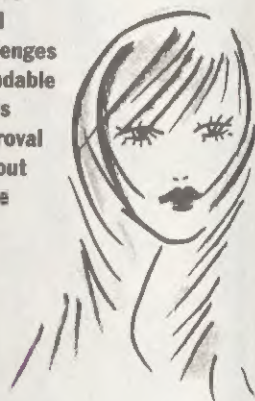
- opinionated
- high-spirited
- dislikes schedules
- selective of friends
- outgoing
- likes attention
- argumentative

ROUNDED TIP TO A POINT

- lovable
- family-oriented
- a doer
- can give orders easily
- domestic
- exaggerates sometimes
- stubborn over little things
- needs people around

FLAT TOP

- to the point
- conservative
- quick mind
- loves challenges
- very dependable
- high morals
- needs approval
- careful about appearance



health & fitness

Who's more stressed?

Women are more likely to feel that stress has affected their health in the past year. Women are twice as likely to seek help for their problems, which may be one reason they don't tend to have long term health problems from stress as serious as those of men.

Take a mental vacation

Visualize a relaxing place and—even if you can't go there physically—you can *feel* more relaxed.

Find a comfortable location where you can avoid distractions. Allow about twenty minutes.

Choose a mental image of a place that is relaxing to you, one that is vivid and real (preferably a place where you've had a relaxing experience), rather than a fantasy.

Close your eyes and start breathing slowly and smoothly. Feel your body becoming heavier and heavier. Imagine tension gradually being released with each exhalation.

Picture yourself in your chosen location. Take in the overall image, then focus on sensory details—how does the sun or cool shade feel on your body? Imagine

After twenty minutes, slowly open your eyes, take a few deep breaths and stretch.

BODY BASIC:

Lower-body stretch

This move loosens the hip, thigh and lower back muscles.

1 Sit cross-legged as shown, so toes of left foot fit in the crease of bent right knee. Put right hand on right knee and press to floor.



2 Lower chin to chest. Rotate torso to the left. Lean torso toward left knee, sliding left hand along floor for support. Switch sides and repeat.



BODY BASIC

Thigh toner

Strengthen your legs for cycling and in-line skating with this killer thigh exercise.

1 Rest your upper back against a wall, feet hip-width apart, hands resting on thighs.



2 Slowly slide your upper back down the wall until knees form a 90° angle and thighs are parallel to floor. Hold for 3 seconds, then slowly slide back up to starting position. Begin with 10 repetitions; build up to 50.



Three stress busters

TAKE A SHORT WALK. IT WILL GIVE YOU TWICE AS MUCH ENERGY AS A CANDY BAR A snack or a cup of coffee may provide a short boost of energy, but half an hour later, they result in increased tension and a drop in energy. A ten-minute brisk walk, on the other hand, increases energy for an hour or more. In his study of smokers and snackers, Robert Thayer, Ph.D., professor of psychology at California State University at Long Beach, found that both groups had significantly more energy after just a five-minute walk, and took twice as long before smoking their next cigarette or eating a snack. "People often try to self-regulate their moods with smoking and snacking," says Thayer. "If they could achieve the same mood in a more healthy way, the smoking and snacking would lessen."

SEEK OUT THE COMPANY OF OTHERS While you might want to hole up

and be alone, "research shows that people cope better with stress in the presence of others, especially others undergoing similar stress," says Judith Siegel, Ph.D., professor at the UCLA School of Public Health. Siegel's studies have shown that support doesn't even have to come from other people: Pets can be a meaningful source of companionship as well (see "Pet Owners," right).

TEACH YOURSELF A RELAXATION TECHNIQUE such as meditation, progressive muscle relaxation (tensing and releasing each part of the body, from your toes to your head) or visualization (see "Mental Vacation," above). If you practice a relaxation technique each day for two weeks, you can teach your body to relax in response to stress, circumventing the release of stress hormones that increase tension.

info

1 Short skirts look great on everyone
Depends on how short. Just above the knee is usually fine, but shorter... well, you've seen living proof of how this looks on some of us.

2 Vertical stripes make you look skinny
It all depends on the garment, the stripe, the body.

3 Never buy on sale what you wouldn't buy at full price
If this were true, they wouldn't have to have sales.

4 Black flatters everyone
It slims, yes. But it can also turn a pale face deathly looking.

5 High-cut swimsuits slim thighs
A classic lie, with ramifications on beaches worldwide. The truth: A high cut can slim hips—not "saddlebags."

6 Tall women look great in everything
Babydoll dresses prove this wrong.

7 Short women should wear heels
As outmoded as its corollary: Tall women shouldn't wear heels.

8 Shoes should be a darker color than your hemline
One or two tones lighter is fine.

9 Heavy women look heavier in knits
Not so! Think of a long, flat-weave cardigan or jacket/dress duo.

10 A lace slip can be worn as a slipdress
Unbelievably, we've actually read this twice.

FASHION WORKSHOP

latest fashion lies

We're not talking outdated etiquette rules ("white is wrong after Labor Day"). We're talking *nineties* lies: the new generation of fibs, exaggerations and treacheries handed to us by salespeople, designers, friends, books and magazines. Read... but don't believe!

20



11 Rayon is hand washable
Sometimes. Many stain, lose their sheen—but you won't know which until it's too late.

12 Short women shouldn't wear big prints
They can—just not head to toe.

13 Nude pantyhose are the only choice in conservative fields
Today, sheer black is fine everywhere.

14 Redheads shouldn't wear red
Don't brunettes wear brown?

15 A classic piece of clothing stays stylish forever
Accessories, maybe. But no major daytime piece is current every year.

16 Bikini underwear means no panty lines
Good briefs—or a thong—are better.

Is this salesperson lying?

She is if she says:

17 "These shoes will stretch"
And your feet will blister, is what she doesn't say.

18 "You won't really have to dry-clean it"
Believe the tag—it's not making a commission.

19 "No one would notice that except you"
Said of stains, loose threads, a tight fit. Why wouldn't they notice?

20 "That's the way this style is supposed to look"
If clothes need explanation, why bother?

CLUB EDEN TOURS... "YOUR TROPICAL GETAWAY"



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Our retreat in the Dominican Republic is a place in the Carribean is free of discrimination and full of fun. This club we are promoting is exclusively reserved for the crossdressing population. The only requirment to be admitted into this hotel is that you are a TV or TS. This way, no one feels out of place and everyone is there for the same reason: To enjoy a phobia-free enviroment!

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Thank you.....Club Eden Tours

Construction worker runs for office — in a skirt!

AN EX-CONSTRUCTION worker with an eye on politics ran for office in high heels — but he didn't run fast enough.

At least Chuck R. McGuire, who came in a respectable second in a city council election, didn't leave his secret life in the closet for political foes to use against him.

"Before, I could never run," explains the 47-year-old six-footer. "I was always worried about somebody digging up my being a transvestite."

Chuck says that, although he wears the occasional cocktail dress, he's still a heterosexual who enjoys dating women. He has no plans for a sex-change operation, but he does take female hormones to inhibit the growth of his thick beard.

The would-be politician was married for 19 years to a wife who accepted his secret life until their two children were grown up. Then they divorced.

Chuck did not start donning frilly frocks on a daily basis until two and a half years ago.

And the burly, hard-working former hard hat doesn't feel dressing up in women's clothing hurt his election chances in Houston, Texas.

"I feel complete," he says. "I'm happy with my life."

The plucky politico, who looks radiant

● I'm happy
with my life ●

in an evening gown, says he has definite ideas for his city.

He sees himself as a sort of swishy savior of neglected urban areas, with plans for aggressive building preservation and an upscale neighborhood patterned after New Orleans' famed French Quarter.

"People respect me as a businessman," he says.

"Just because I dress differently from everybody else doesn't make my mind different."



GLOBE

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Ms. Special K's Guide to Lip Synch Performing

To all aspiring performers, the following hints are intended as a guide. Lip Synch is an art in its own right but it's a great deal fun too. As you get better at it, your confidence grows in leaps and bounds.

Before the Illusions first birthday party, no one had heard of Ms. Special K. Back then she was just Karen and had never considered setting foot on a stage, except, maybe the next one out of town. I should like to thank Trashy Terri, Kiwi and Tiffany for the opportunity of performing with them in October of 91' at the Twisted Sisters' Dressing for Pleasure evening. I learned quite a bit from these seasoned performers.

Here then are some suggestions to help you on your way.

1. You should always strive to have fun with lip-synching. By enjoying your performance, you will reflect positively and it will enhance the show.
2. Pick an artist you are well aquatinted and comfortable with. Try to stay within the age group of that person. A 45 year old trying to do a 22 year old may be less than successful.
3. Try to get in as many dress rehearsals as possible.
4. Always ensure that the lyrics are pertinent to the artist you are portraying. For example: The gender should match the lyrics and vice versa.

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intentionally
blank due to
privacy considerations.

5. Try running through your complete repertoire when practicing. If you find you can get through the set flawlessly, 'stop'. Any further rehearsal will be compared to the best one and you will become self-critical.
6. When using a microphone, try to avoid fiddling with the cord. Use your free hand instead to enhance the choreography.
7. Practice with and without a microphone, to see which format you more at ease. Without a microphone allows you to concentrate more with choreography.
8. Always be aware of how much space you have on stage and where all obstacles are.
9. When preparing your tape, lead in with some walking music which will identify exclusively with you, (Approx. 10 to 15 seconds.)

Keep in mind that we were not all cut out to be Judy Garland or Bette Midler. Our main aim here is to enjoy ourselves and do justice to the artists whom we are portraying.

Good luck and I hope to see some of you up on the stage at our upcoming events.

Sincerely, Ms. Special K

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out from my closet and into the mall

It was one last look in the mirror, yes, make-up was still good, hair neat. I put the car keys in my purse and out into the open world I emerged. Walking through the parking lot was easy, so far no one stopping to look me over, but as I stepped up to the mall doors, a second thought about this venture crossed my mind; "You could really get in trouble this time Lisa!"

It had been a long time since I was going out shopping as a woman. The last venture was in my teenage years. I'm amazed I did it then, considering how little I knew about make-up and how motherly my wig and clothing looked. Chalk that up to teenage invincibility. I could do anything.

My first outing was to Zellers. The plan was to buy my own bra, which would be the start of a personal, not borrowed wardrobe. I was worried if neighbors would see me leave, so partly dressed, I drove my car near to the store, finished dressing and went in.

I did wonder if anyone noticed me, but there wasn't any pointing to, or commotion regarding this lady in the orange jumpsuit. I proceeded to the lingerie section and picked up a bra, as to why I chose an athletic one, well, I was in a hurry not to linger in the lingerie too long.

I nearly bought that bra, it wasn't so much that I was scared to go to the cashier, but I began to have those early doubts as to what the heck I was doing. I went back to the car.

At home I had just put the last article of mom's clothing away (Meticulously, I might add), when my dad walked in the door. I wonder what might have happened if I took the time to stand in line and buy that bra. My parents never did catch me in the act.

As you likely agree, crossdressing guilt doesn't last for long and the need takes over. Shopping trips during summer vacation were in order. Avoiding the car I walked, dressed as the older woman to the mall. Finally I was convinced to buy my own things and I did. Looking back it wasn't a lot of clothes, but it was as if I had conquered the South Pole.

I had a few more outdoor adventures in my school years but that ended once I made it into the working world. It would be a decade and at least the purging of five female wardrobes until I accepted myself for who I am. Joining Illusions was the catalyst, no longer did I believe I was the only one doing this. Today, I like being Lisa whether I'm dressed or not.

My feminine attitude, makeup and clothing have progressed further this past year than in all my life. There's still so much to learn and practice in being a woman though.

It was a few months ago when I felt I had the confidence from going out with other Illusions girls and taking a few day outings that I felt I was ready to take to the public again. Dressed in jeans, black desert boots, fleece jacket, my hair pulled back with a headband and my makeup low key I stepped into the Chinook Center, a big mall here in Calgary which has the size for one to get lost in. I didn't know what to expect after going through those mall doors, but as it turned out, no one was looking at me. My confidence level rose and I began my venture.

Trying not to look out of sorts, I practiced a relaxed, female walk, basically swinging my free arm, more than I usually do, and keeping my step light. An Illusions friend had told me that chewing gum relaxes the face. I think it did and it helped calm me down.

I maintained little eye contact, staring down or looking at window displays. Mind you, I still looked back with my periphery, just to check if people were staring, nope.

I had walked the whole mall and soon I was checking out the larger stores, it was a great feeling to be a woman in the woman's department for once. I opted out of going to the smaller stores or in buying anything on this trip, I'm still working on the voice and I don't like to surprise a poor sales clerk. I did that before Christmas, as Sherri and I did a quick trip over to Macleod Mall to pick up a some ring repairs for Barbie. As Sherri told me, we did pretty good in the store until I replied to the clerk's, "May I help you?" She made a second glance, but handled the shock.

Recently I've done some shopping as Lisa and I'm practicing my voice. There's so much to learn and I realize that I'm not passing perfectly, but it's fun learning and trying.

Are you thinking of going out?

If your thinking of venturing 'en femme', here are some suggestions that are from my experience and other Illusions members. Remember, they don't work for everyone, we all have our own style and motivations for crossdressing.

- Dress to mix with the crowd. Most women at the mall wear casual clothing. Keep makeup, except for beard-cover light. Have you ever noticed a gal at the mall who is dressed in a mini-skirt and big hair? So has everyone else, so if you don't want to be scrutinized look like the other ladies.
- Most of us are taller than the average woman, so wear flat shoes, or runners. High heels make a lot of noise on the tiles, save them for your night out at Illusions.
- Have a feminine walk, but avoid your drop-dead, night club strut.
- If you have hairy legs, arms or chest. Cover them with pants, long sleeves and high collars.
- To start out, go to the mall as your regular self, notice the women there. Watch for styles, walk, head and hand movements. It's like free education. To get over self consciousness, pretend that you are dressed, maybe you can't walk as a woman but experiment your eye contact with others. You'll find that people will look at you if you are looking at them.
- If you are worried about shopping alone, take the advice of Princess I, Colleen. She will go out with another crossdresser who is dressed as a man. Together they are like any other couple, it looks normal and if anyone is staring, the male will stare them down

continued next page

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Going out, continued

- Some Illusions gals will go out with wives or lady friends.
- A word of caution ladies. We shouldn't think that we can completely pass. If we did then we'd actually be women. Many transsexuals who have gone through hormones, electrolysis and operations will tell you that there have been times when they have been 'read'.

Do your best gals, start slowly into going out. A good start may be to just go from your home and drive to the club in the security of your car. You may try going out for walks, being careful where you go of course.

This article was not intended as a goal that Illusions members must attain. There are some who have no desire to go out in public as a woman and besides the club is not here to force members into uncomfortable situations. We are here to help each other's feminine side grow within our limits. Enjoy Illusions and make the best of it.

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A List of Troubles

By Diane

As I cautiously begin to experience life in the real world, I have also come to know some of the inconveniences women have to put up with on a daily basis. So stealing a little thunder from David Letterman, here is my top-ten list of problems that only women and wannabe women experience.

10. If your wearing jewelry with sharp edges, your pantyhose don't stand a chance.
9. If your growing your fingernails long, you will always find a way or two of breaking a nail.
8. If your wearing a short, tight skirt, it will always ride up till it reveals too much.
7. Women spend a lot of time staring down when they walk. That's because they're always looking out for the dreaded heel eating sidewalk grates.
6. When the sidewalks are icy, it's pretty tough to walk in shoes with shiny bottoms. Having said that, try walking on the same surface with shoes that have shiny bottoms and 3" heels!
5. When at a party or bar, there is never a convenient place to put your purse.
4. When wearing a jumpsuit, you practically have to undress just to go to the washroom. If the floor around the toilet is wet, don't let the outfit end up touching the floor.
3. On buying women's sizes, not all size 10 shoes and not all size 12 dresses fit the same. Above all, one size pantyhose does not fit all. It's more like one size fits small.

2. There is no possible way to eat chicken wings without messing up your lipstick.

1. If it's a hot day or if your hot from dancing, your wig will always seem much hotter than it really is. It's like wearing a downfilled toque. My sincerest sympathies to you real women. I'll probably be adding to my list in the future as I continue to slide and stumble around in 3" heels in the quest to be a wannabe female.

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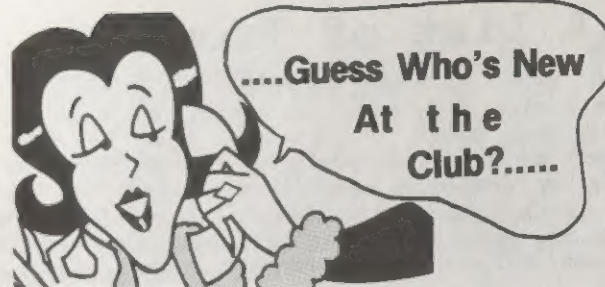
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#283 VIKKY..Edmonton Crossdresser. She's been dressing from very young and is looking forward to friends in the club!

#284 Joan...New from Northern Alta!

#285 Judy..Closet TV for the last 12 years abit shy but would like to try to make it to a club meeting..needs a ride!

#286 Susan..Greetings to our new Aussie friend...Illusions members now are across the ocean...welcome!

#287 Jasmine.. Enjoys being totally feminine!

#288 Jennifer.. Edmonton...Wants to meet more people in the TV/TS lifestyle!



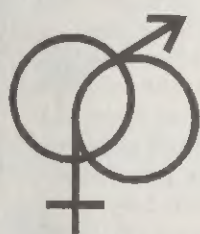
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Illusions Centerfold.....

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My first memories are of watching my mother dress in a girdle and do up the garters. From about the same time period comes the memory of going to the swimming pool with my mother during "women only" hours. It had always seemed to me that these memories were a little different than usual for a young man. Looking back on those days, I realize that I really didn't have a lot of contact with my father and that's probably why my earliest memories aren't of playing ball or going fishing. The lack of contact with my father didn't come from our home being a broken one. Rather, it was the result of a hard working (some would say workaholic) father. The closeness with my mother was brought on by that and the fact that being the youngest of three children, while my siblings were at school, I spent the better part of two of my most influential formative years with my mother as my only company during the day.

As time went on, I grew as most children do, but instead of being interested in sports (other than skiing) and playground rough housing, I spent my time in the quieter pursuits of reading, sewing and knitting or just

wandering through the woods at the back of our home. For the most part, my childhood activities were those that didn't involve anyone else.

My discovery of the part of me that would later become Cindy came at about the same time as puberty. Talk about confusing and scary. Not only did I have to deal with my burgeoning sexuality, but I had to figure out which sex I really, emotionally was. During this period of my life, my mother was away from home quite a bit for family reasons. My father wasn't really the type I would choose to confide my confusion in, so I struggled along keeping up my grades and keeping up an interest in girls.

It was during this same period that my curiosity about feminine under garments got the best of me and I went exploring my mother's dresser while she was away and my father was at work. The first time also very nearly became my last time. To set the scene: I got home from school first so I went to my mother's drawers and started trying things on. I quickly found that I liked the feel and just as quickly got good at the various clasps and fastenings. For about half an hour I explored. I stopped when I saw my brother coming up the street and narrowly made it into my room (buck naked) as he came in the door. I thought, "Whew! Made it!", and got dressed again in my male clothes. I thought I had put everything away properly, but I was proven to be wrong when my father got home.

All three of us kids were home when my father got home from work, and he went up to his bedroom to change. The relative quiet was broken by my father's raised voice as he inquired, "Which of you kids were in mother's underwear drawers?" All three of us answered, of course, that we hadn't been anywhere near them. He obviously couldn't have believed all of us, but there was no further mention of it that day or ever. It was a long time before I had the nerve to investigate my mother's drawers again. In a way it may have been a blessing in disguise that I so very nearly got caught. It served to make me very careful in my continuing experimentation.

For the next few years, the pattern of stolen moments with some of my mother's,

Cindy.....

and later my sister's, underwear continued. During this time, I managed to "acquire" several pairs of panties from my mother and sister. I kept them stashed in various places in my bedroom, and to the best of my knowledge, my family never found any of it. My first experience with someone discovering me came during this period in my life.

Once, while my parents were on vacation and my sister was out of town for the summer, I must have been feeling a little lazy. I put a pair of pink lace panties under my pillow just to keep them out of the sight of my brother. A little later that day, my girlfriend came over and was giving me a massage. As I turned over, the pillow moved and the panties came into plain view. As you can imagine, the sight of some pink panties that weren't hers

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kind of upset my girlfriend. She demanded to know whose they were. Being in a damned-if-I-do-and-damned-if-I-don't situation, I decided that honesty would be best. I answered that they were mine. After some questions about what a transvestite was and what exactly I was, she decided that it was okay with her.

During the rest of that summer she helped me buy a few things and let me wear them while I was with her, but the real "mindblower" came at Halloween. She suggested I go to a party as a girl. She lent me a bra and a dress and helped me with my make up and hair. We went to the party and I must have been convincing because a guy that didn't know me tried to pick me up. Was he ever embarrassed when he found out what he had been trying to do! The low point of the party came when a slightly drunk partier burst one of my water balloon breasts. Soggy pantyhose are not, as I discovered, comfortable. Luckily, the party was at a friend's house, so she lent me some pants (too short) and a shirt. I was more comfortable that way, but still pretty upset. After the party, my girlfriend told me that I could keep the dress and the bra. What a bonus!

During that same summer, I had taken some pictures of me in various articles of feminine underwear. I took the film into a local store to get it developed and printed. I didn't realize that my brother also had pictures in getting done at the same time. This particular store filed orders waiting for pickup in alphabetical order based on last name alone. Well, the inevitable happened and my brother picked up my pictures by mistake. Assuming the pictures he had received were his, he opened the package and looked at them. When he brought them into my room to give them to me, all he said was, "I believe these are yours." Nothing else was ever said about the incident. I wonder now if he even remembers the pictures.

The next memorable event along Cindy's road to discovery came about a year later. Times and girlfriends change, and I was delighted to find that my next girlfriend also accepted the feminine side of me.

(Continued on next page)

CINDY.....

One evening, while her parents were out for one of their frequent nights of dancing, we decided that we would do a complete job on me. Makeup, underwear and outer clothes: the whole bit. As I had started keeping my by now substantial collection of lingerie at her house, underwear was no problem. We were about half way through the make up when her parents and their friends came home early! Here I was in the downstairs bathroom, my face half made up and wearing a bra, panties, stockings and garters under one of my girlfriend's dressing gowns. To top it off, my male clothes were in her bedroom upstairs. To get from one to the other she had to go through the living room where the four adults were. Somehow we managed to get me turned back into my male self without arousing too many suspicions. Too close for comfort!

Time moved on, and I met my future wife. We dated and got engaged. I decided that before we did anything permanent like get married, she should know that I was a transvestite. When I told her, she was upset at first but she did allow me to explain. After the explanations were over, she decided that it wasn't really so bad and that she could accept it. For about a year, she was supportive and helpful. Shortly after we were married, she started to have second thoughts about the second me. To try to please her, I reduced my activities to a bare minimum while she was around. The only time I could be my true self was when she was working late or visiting her parents.

After about two years of marriage, she gave me an ultimatum. The clothes or her. There was really no choice. I had to choose my marriage so I threw out any of the clothes that she didn't want. I completely stopped wearing feminine attire when she was around. Apparently this wasn't enough for her as she left me a few months later leaving behind the few pieces of lingerie that I had given her. The break up of my marriage served to convince me that I should leave my cross dressing days behind so I did what so many of us have done. I purged. Any and all feminine possessions went into the garbage.

Time for a new start.

After living with my parents for a few months to regain my financial footing, I moved into a townhouse with the sister-in-law of a close friend. This was a two people, two bedroom arrangement so we each had our privacy. For a couple of months, I resisted the temptation of my room mate's clothes. Slowly the urge got stronger. Soon I was sneaking into her room on my days off and satisfying my desires. My girlfriend of the time had been brought up in a rather conservative household, and after the rejection experienced at the hands of my ex-wife, I was reluctant to tell her about my softer, feminine side. To make matters more complex, she was living and working in Edmonton while I was here in Calgary. As fate will do, it twisted again and I met the love of my life.

The situation in my shared townhouse had taken a turn for the worse with the arrival of my room mate's sister and the subsequent announcement that she was going to be moving in with us. This fact, paired with the wonderful relationship I found myself in, combined to set the stage to move in with my lady love. However, being a gentleman, I decided that she had a right to know about the feminine side of my personality before I moved in with her. The reception I got when I told her was not what I would describe as confidence inspiring. When she had time to think it over though, she decided that it wasn't so bad, at least compared to being a child molester or a drunken lout.

The next few months of our relationship consisted of talks and trips to libraries and book stores to find information. While I could answer most of her questions, she could not be sure of the answers as they were coming from an interested party. Kind of like asking a salesman about his product: You're not going to hear anything bad about it. We didn't do too well in the search for knowledge. Aside from a few dictionary definitions and an occasional outdated psychology book, there was pitifully little information to be had. In a last ditch attempt, Elaine went to her doctor and asked if she could refer us anywhere or to anyone. We got a lead! A name of a counselling firm that had a gender specialist on staff. (Continued on Page 24)

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CINDY.....

Cont'd from page 22

Even with a lead, we chased around for a little while longer trying to find the specialist's current employer. When we found her, it was well worth the work invested in finding her. She was accepting and non-judgmental from the first. Her description of cross dressing as a "preference", while not completely accurate, did allow Elaine to recognize that although the clothing may change, the person inside me and the characteristics that drew her to me did not. The characteristics of gentleness, cleanliness and thoughtfulness are frequently thought of as unmanly and therefore undesirable in a man. They are also the characteristics that women frequently describe as being important to them in a mate. The knowledge gained from the counselor along with her easy acceptance of me for who I am also served to set my mind more at ease. A lasting result of the counselling is that I chose my feminine name as a tribute to her and the difference she has made in my life.

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Although I had long accepted that I was a transvestite, I could never shake the feeling that there was something wrong with me. I now feel that I am okay. It's the rest of the world that has a problem if it can't accept cross dressing. Unfortunately, because we are a minority, we must often bear the ridicule and misguided contempt of the rest of the world.

About a month after we had finished with the counsellor, we still had not managed to find a support group. One day while looking through a contact magazine, we noticed two

ads. One was for custom lingerie and street clothes, and the other was for a social club for transvestites that was just starting up. With the idea firmly in mind that we would write a letter to the address for the social club, we went looking for the shop advertising the custom clothing. We found the shop and had a good look around. The proprietor was helpful and friendly and apologized for not being able to show us the workshop where the clothes were made. The workshop, he explained, was being used for a club meeting. We continued to look around and found the contact board that the shop maintains. On it was a brochure for an international transvestites' support organization. I asked if I could take the brochure home. This led to him telling me that the brochure was for transvestites, which caused me to answer that that was why I wanted it.

We had a bit of a discussion about my crossdressing habits during which he explained that the club that was meeting in the back room was a transvestites' support group. The discussion ended up leading me to my first meeting with another crossdresser. As it turned out, the meeting I had was with an executive of the very group to which I had planned to write a letter. That night I attended my first of many Illusions meetings.

As I write this, I have come to a cross road in my life. In the last year, Elaine and I have told a few of our friends and one family member (my sister) about Cindy and have met with acceptance and love. The decision that faces me now is whether or not to tell the rest of my family. I feel that by hiding Cindy from them I am not allowing them to know me fully. While the rewards of being accepted by my family for who I am would be great, the risks and repercussions of rejection are equally as great.



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A SPOUSES VIEW POINT...

.....By ELAINE

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When Brian told me that he had been in contact (by computer) with someone elsewhere in the world who shared his cross-dressing interest, I was pleased, because there's nothing like being able to share life experiences and information with others who share this rather hidden lifestyle. It is my hope that I may be able to help a spouse or SO work through their concerns about cross-dressing, because I myself have had to come to terms with it, and I'm very happy with the way it turned out for us.

Let me begin by saying that Brian told me about his cross-dressing in the fall of 1988, when our relationship became serious and we were discussing living together. It was important to him that his partner understand that this was a part of his life, and he hoped that I could accept it. At that point I felt physically ill because I had never encountered this in my life before and I had no one unbiased to discuss it with to see what might lie ahead for me if I stayed in this relationship. I was only aware of drag queens in show business. This would be something I would have to keep secret; I wouldn't even be able to discuss it with my mom or sister without jeopardizing their respect for him.

Needless to say, Brian and I spent a lot of time talking over the next while. I had lots of questions: Was he gay? Why would any man have the desire to be a woman when society has so long treated women like second-class citizens? To what extent did he need to carry out this 'fetish'? But although I had all these questions, I was certainly drawn to the soft (feminine?) side of his personality. Rather than go drinking with the guys and doing the macho things that usually drive a left-alone spouse insane, Brian prefers to go shopping with me, going for breakfast together on the weekend, and spending time with our families, and it is like that to this day.

So, in November/88 I took the plunge and Brian and I started living together. He was very patient with me while I tried to come to terms with understanding his need to cross-dress. But I also had a need and that was to find out as much as I could about the phenomena and to find someone who would reassure me that it was okay. I visited my family doctor who told me there was nothing wrong with it, but that if we wanted to receive counselling, she could refer us to a psychologist who has experience in that area.

Brian was very agreeable to accompanying me to the psychologist with whom we had only a few sessions, and although the counselling was not cheap, it was certainly valuable and reassuring. I learned that cross-dressing covers a wide spectrum and we also learned where Brian fits in that spectrum. He is a heterosexual cross-dresser who has an inner feminine personality that he needs and likes to express from time to time. While science has not fully determined the reasons why cross-dressing or other more extreme situations (e.g., transsexualism and gender dysphoria) occur, it appears to be a quirk that occurs at birth and begins to

continued next page



ELAINE'S STORY

manifest itself between the ages of 6 to 15 years. For the male cross-dresser who possesses the softer personality, job stresses can be relieved when he changes into his female persona, and the feminine clothing helps him achieve that relaxation. That's better than using tranquilizers.

Once we were through with the psychologist, my next wish was to meet other cross-dressers. (I sure was persistent to learn more.) So, Brian and I checked out an adult book store (yes, one of those X-rated places) where we obtained a publication from Tri-Ess; and the proprietor, seeing our sincerity, put us in touch with a cross-dressing club in our city.

Well, this was the best thing that could have happened for me! It also provided Brian with his first opportunity to 'go out in public' as we started attending the club gatherings on a regular basis. We met some wonderful people who, like us, live our lives working at our jobs, have our hobbies and interests, and have the additional aspect of cross-dressing in our life. I met other 'real' women there with whom I could talk, laugh and joke with about all of our experiences, and we made new friends that we get together with outside the club. My closest girlfriend (who I thought would not tolerate or try to understand cross-dressing) found out about Brian's crossdressing quite by accident. I invited her to come along with us to one of the club functions. We invited her over for dinner that evening, so she was able to see Brian transform into Cindy. She nervously went with us to the club where she met a cross-dresser with whom she is now in a relationship. Like I said before, the club was the best thing that could have happened for us. I don't think I'm the only woman who feels that way, because for the past three years that we have been in the club, there have been spouses of cross-dressers who couldn't accept the cross-dressing but who eventually agreed to attend a function

(quite often the Halloween party) and who are now working towards a better understanding and comfortable acceptance of cross-dressing. Most have children who don't know about the cross-dressing, some have children who do. Having the club available for people to talk about their common problems has been really helpful.

So, I hope that my story will help you to see that acquiring as much knowledge as you can about cross-dressing, and getting to meet other cross-dressers who live just as normal a life as we do, will help

alleviate the fears you may have like I had five years ago. Yes, it took time getting used to seeing Brian 'dressed up', but I got involved helping him with his makeup and hair and helping him shop for clothing, and I found it to be a lot more fun that we were doing this together than if I had turned my back on him and shut myself out from this part of his natural personality.

Good luck to you. I'm here if you ever want to talk more.

Brian's partner, Elaine

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the world according to he & she

BY JULIE LOGAN AND ARTHUR HOWARD

Are you male or female?



1. You go to the store to buy a pair of jeans. You determine your size by:

- A. ☐ Your waist measurement and inseam.
B. ☐ Trying on four different sizes of each brand.

2. You are a movie star in your prime. This means that you are:

- A. ☐ Anywhere from 19 to 70 years of age and are paired with the crème de la crème of the opposite sex.
B. ☐ In your early twenties and frequently play the on-screen love interests of men old enough to be your father.



3. It's midnight. You run to the store to buy massive quantities of cranberry juice. This means:

- A. ☐ You're hosting a party and running low on sea-breeze cocktail supplies.
B. ☐ You have a raging case of cystitis.

4. You go in for your regular trim. What you say to the person doing your hair is:

- A. ☐ "Just a little off the top and the sides."
B. ☐ "So he didn't call when he said he would call. Do you think he's sick or something? Do you think he forgot? Do you think I should call him or should I just tough it out? I hate this. I feel terrible."

5. The first thing that comes to mind when you hear the words "hard labor" is:

A. ☐

B. ☐

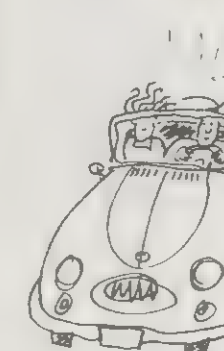


6. The late-night talk-show hosts who are your sex are:

- A. ☐ All of them.
B. ☐ None of them.

7. The TV dinner targeting you has this word in its name:

- A. ☐ Hungry.
B. ☐ Lean.



8. You are going out on a date. Neither of you drinks and both of you have cars of equal value. Who ends up driving?

- A. ☐ You.
B. ☐ Your date.

9. You're part of a couple, the male partner of which burps and passes gas with abandon. You feel that the relationship is:

- A. ☐ Right on track and going well.
B. ☐ In big trouble.

SCORING A = 1 point, B = 2 points

1 to 9 points: Congratulations, you're male. This means you wouldn't need a sex-change operation to play for the NBA, NFL or NHL, your standard of living goes up when you get a divorce, and when your heart is breaking it feels like the end of the world.

10 to 18 points: Congratulations, you're female. This means sex gets better as you get older, you are less likely to initiate a gunfight, and when your heart is breaking it feels like the end of the world.

Julie Logan and Arthur Howard are coauthors of the book *The World According to HE & SHE* (Dell Publishing).



[letters from readers]

Dear Illusions Newsletter & Social Club,
I just finished reading my first Illusions Newsletter...WOW!
How uplifting the words of a compassionate and understanding Newsletter can be. Coming out can be so hard. But here I go... (where do I start?) I am a lost 31 year old Transsexual Male. I am very shy and even writing this letter is hard to do. After reading the article in the newsletter titled REMEMBER was what inspired me to write. I would be very interested in finding out more about your club and hopefully in time I will meet other TV and TS's etc that would be understanding and caring to help me out of my closet. I would love to be the woman I so desire to be and need to be.....Gail

Dear Barbie,

Recently I picked up your Nov/Dec issue and for the first time in my life I saw an opportunity for acceptance. This was the first time I have ever seen the Illusions magazine and I was eager to read it as soon as I got home. I have been toying with the idea of writing for a few days now but wasn't exactly sure what to say. Finally I decided to write you - your picture revealed a beautiful woman and your words offered the transformation idea. ..but mostly as a founding member I am sure you could introduce me best to the club and those involved which is what I desire most.

I guess now is as good a time as any to tell you abit about myself. I am 23 and single and a student. My earliest memories of crossdressing are from when I was six years old and I wanted to try on some of my mothers lipstick...so I did. I am sure at that age I had no idea of the strong desires that would follow. By age 11 I was secretly "borrowing" my mothers underclothes sometimes even wearing them to school. It wasn't until puberty that I began to graduate from just underwear to skirts, blouses, dresses, heels and full makeup. My teenage years were amazing now that I compare my "changes" to other CD/TV's. I never actually fully connected with anyone or any particular click...I was a jock, brain and prep and nobody all in one. None new of my "secret" life of crossdressing. If memory serves mme well I have "purged" three times, throwing away an incredible assortment of clothing and items. The last time I purged myself, full of guilt over who or what I was I threw out literally hundreds of dollars of womens clothing- much of it new or irreplaceable...(like my grandmothers 1940's-50's corsets). Of course when my urges returned- stronger than ever I might add...so my collection began up in Sept. She was both my best friend and girlfriend. Only 3 months after knowing her I told her I crossdressed. She was cautious at first but eventually became very accepting even giving to the idea. She would do my makeup and help dress me up. It was great. We shopped together, tried on outfits together (at home of course) and were open about this part of me. But I think there were times when I became too obsessed with my desires and needs and I am sure I pushed things to the limit more than once. After we broke up I asked her if my CDing had influenced the ending. She said no..not at all...but I really wonder.

Now I have healed from that relationship at least enough to seek out others. I need support and acceptance. Crossdressing is as much a part of my life as being a man. I believe that with what I have seen from the magazine Illusions is very much for me. My interests and activities are exceptionally varied and I feel I can offer alot to the club. I would be very interested to see the kind of lady you can help me become as my characterture is one of an effeminate nature anyways.

In reviewing this issue of Illusions I get the impression that you are a very popular and busy lady, so if you don't have time to answer me back...could you let some club members know about me. I would like to get to know a few before I come to a meeting...I'm still really nervous! Beth.

'Sexiest show girl' in Vegas fired — because she used to be a MAN!

Las Vegas' sexiest show girl used to be a GUY!

But when gorgeous Jahna Steele recently revealed she had a sex change, the stunning beauty was dropped from her starring role in one of Vegas' most famous all-girl stage shows.

Now she's changing careers and is seeking stardom again — as the first transsexual comedienne.

In an exclusive ENQUIRER interview, Jahna told how she turned herself from an altar boy into a busty blonde show girl.

She revealed she had surgery to become a woman in 1983.

And she performed in the topless "Crazy Girls Dance Revue" at the Riviera Hotel for five years — keeping her surgery a secret.

"No one looking at me ever suspected that I was born a man," declared Jahna. "Only a few close friends knew my secret. And a lot of famous men told me I was one beautiful woman."

She kept her sex change so hush-hush she was even voted "Sexiest Show Girl on the Las Vegas Strip" in 1991.

But Jahna was canned last month after she confessed to a reporter "SHE" used to be a "HE" named John.

Yet she hasn't despaired over losing her job.

In fact, the gorgeous 33-year-old comedienne, who measures 36-22-35, has had

Ex-altar boy tells of secret life as a busty blonde



JAHNA on her wedding day... with her current boyfriend... as an altar boy

Enquirer Exclusive

to learn to laugh about the curves that life has thrown her ever since she was a boy in San Antonio, Tex.

"They say all humor comes from pain," confided Jahna. "Well, I've had plenty of that. My childhood was a nightmare."

"Deep down I felt like a girl. I acted like a girl. But I was trapped in this boy's body. It was horrible."

"Before bed each night, I remember praying that when I woke up I'd be a girl."

But it never happened. And for years, Jahna, the second of four children, tried hard to fit into a boy's macho role.

"In first grade I played Little League," she confided. "I couldn't hit, I couldn't catch and I couldn't throw."

MAN!

"When I got a little older I became an altar boy at our church. The only reason I became one was because the cassock I got to wear looked

like a dress. It meant I could finally wear a dress.

"I must have been a real puzzle for the priests. They'd find me in the back of the church, twirling around and singing 'The Sound of Music.' I was always pretending I was Julie Andrews."

The confused child found comfort in dolls and dressing up.

"I loved Barbie," said Jahna. "My sister had a Barbie doll and I lived to play with it. I never dressed up in my mother's clothes."

But when my sister would throw a dress in the bathroom hamper, I'd sneak in and try it on."

Puberty was even more traumatic for the boy, because now he was expected to go on dates with members of the opposite sex.

"I had exactly two dates in high school. Once in the 10th grade I asked a girl to the mall," Jahna revealed.

"Then in my senior year we had a prom... and I got asked by a girl. I didn't want to kiss her. But she French-

Continued on page 38, Vegas

'I was trapped in this boy's body. It was horrible'

Talking toys speak about gender stereotypes

"Eat Lead Cobra; No Escape for the guilty! Vengeance is mine; Dead men tell no tales...."

"Will we ever have enough clothes? I love to shop with you; Ken's such a dream."

Can you guess who said what? Was it the infamous toy store Glamour Queen Barbie or was it that muscle bound fighter for all...G.I.Joe? Seems that they were switched at the voice boxes!

There's a group based in New York (where else?) that call themselves the BLO..the Barbie Liberation Organization! The groups plan is simple; Buy Teen Talk Barbie and Talking G.I.Joe dolls then switch the voice boxes. The altered dolls are then placed back on store shelves and resold to unsuspecting kids. In the end, blonde, curvaceous Barbie has an evil laugh and makes machine gun noises...meanwhile, G.I.Joe talks a softer message.

The BLO group feel that although the methods are clearly tongue in cheek, the message is not. A lot of people really don't think about what these toys are saying unless it appears to them in a way they're not expecting it. The dolls perpetuate gender-based stereotypes and the group feel that this is tied into some greater societal problem, especially a thing like G.I.Joe, which encourages kids to act in a violent way.

Last August was the kick off for the BLO Movement when "Barbie" announced that "Math is Hard!" This whole issue has certainly brought attention to the idea of gender-stereotyping.

Some people still feel that no matter what you do, testosterone-filled boys will always be rambunctious and loud, while testosterone-free girls will be sweet. We're not so sure...my son is loud and rambunctious, but he's also sweet.

Do I treat my daughter the same way as my son? Are we afraid of dressing our boys in pink and

treating them sweet? The BLO has cleverly managed to put some thinking thoughts into mainstream families..which is always a step in the right direction..... [Excerpts from Edmonton Journal article by D.Staples.]

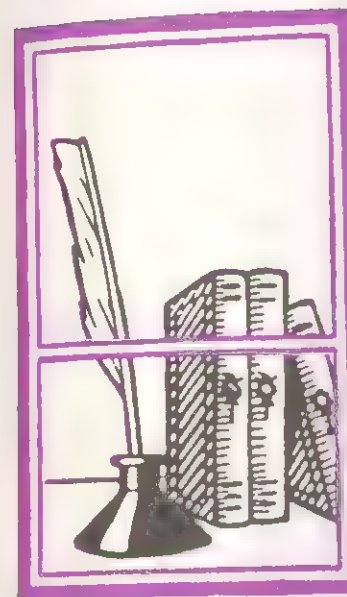


Prairie Rose Gender Club
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'Prettiest' title goes to men: More than 1,000 spectators packed a Manila convention centre over the weekend to cheer finalists in the fifth annual Miss Gay Philippines — Five Prettiest beauty pageant. The 24 youthful contestants, clad in body-hugging, short, bright red dresses, paraded down the runway to the cheers from the enthusiastic audience, about one-third of whom were men in drag. The contestants appeared in the traditional swimsuits and evening gowns and answered questions on such issues as AIDS prevention, drug abuse and the role of homosexuals in Philippine society.



Winners of the Miss Gay Philippines — Five Prettiest contest went by their pseudonyms: (from left) Maria Coco, Elvie Monteciaro, Mikee Aldan, Sarah Trono and Rina Enriquez



REVIEW REVUE.....by Christine.

In this initial review I'll be dealing with three books. Two of the books deal with the life and times of two very different transsexual's. The third book deals with interpersonal skills and the differences gender makes.

Katherine's Diary..(by Katherine Cummings..published by Mandarin, a part of Reed Books Australia Ltd).

My Story...(by Caroline Cossey..published by Faber & Faber Inc.) I found both books an enjoyable read with definite insight into the great losses that a transsexual can suffer. For me personally the Cummings book held more relevance. Cummings pursues gender reassignment at a later age while "Tula" started her adventures while quite young. Cummings story is based more on what I would call the real world while Tula goes from seedy and seamy to sheikdom's, fashion runways and jetset lifestyles!

You Just Don't Understand...(by Deborah Tannen,Ph.D...published by Ballantine Books).

This book is a study on speech differences from a gender based viewpoint. A must read for those who wish to communicate with or as the opposite gender.

P.S....These books are now all available in the Illusions Library!

LOOKING OUT MY WINDOW.....a social commentary....by Christine.

It has become increasingly clear to this writer that the right wing element of our society has an agenda to obliterate anything that they deem immoral.

We in Alberta are extremely fortunate that we only have to deal with the Tories and the largely misinformed public. Were we to be residents in Oregon or Washington State we would have to deal with groups such as the "Citizens Alliance of Washington" or "Washington Committee for Equal Rights, Not Special Rights". Both of these groups have submitted resolutions to the government which would prevent anti-discrimination laws from protecting the rights of the transgendered, lesbian, bisexual and gay communities. They would like to see a prohibition from the educational system that prevents any activity showing homosexuality as positive, healthy, or even acceptable. They would like to see children removed from one or both homosexual parents

upon dissolution of a marriage. The measure defines gender as established at conception and unchangeable regardless of "physical alterations"; prevents same gender marriages based upon this definition. So in lay terms a TS would never be allowed to marry into a heterosexual relationship. Another resolution wishes to dictate that no unit of government shall enact or enforce a policy where by any homosexual, bisexual, transsexual or transvestite status, preference, orientation, conduct, act, practice, or relationship shall be the basis for a person to maintain any.... claim of discrimination". The initiative contains provisions in favour of "Equal Justice for All", the teaching of "Principles of Morality, Truth, Justice, Temperance, Humanity and Patriotism", and "Guaranteeing the Rights of All Citizens" and it opposes violence as well.

In Alberta we don't have specific laws protecting us however we also are not being

aggressively attacked by any right wing movements at this time. However it's no longer the right wing against the gay community, it's the right wing against anyone they deem immoral. Like it or not girls we have been forced into the fray. If it can happen in the US how long will it be before it happens here? Forewarned is forearmed!





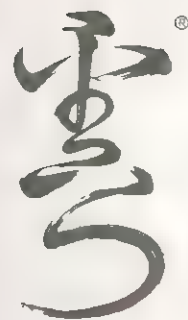
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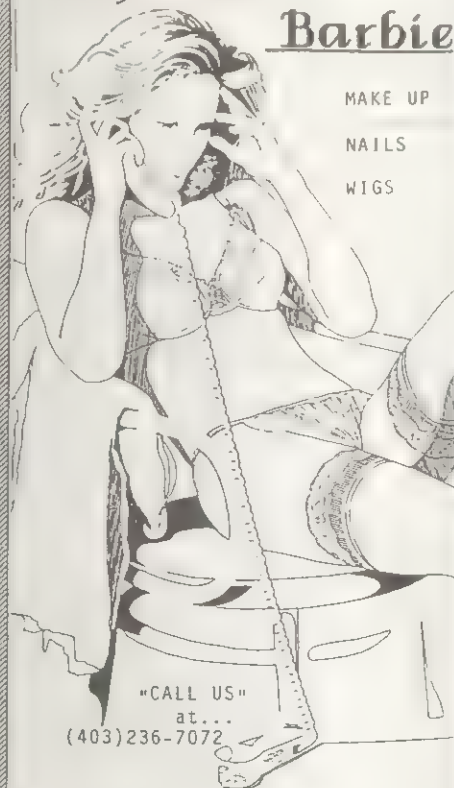
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March of Dames: While uniform dressing has its fans among the fashion-conscious—be they Chanel addicts or Gap clones—quite a few men in uniform evidently prefer to look like the mother of the bride. According to Michael Salem, owner of a well-known mail-order transvestite boutique, 10 percent of his customers are military personnel; during the Gulf War, Salem claims, he got four or five orders a day from the boys in the sand. If power is an aphrodisiac, as Henry Kissinger remarked, perhaps female gear is a weird kind of power dressing for men. RuPaul, the popular drag queen, would agree. "One of the key moments in my life," he says, "was the time I marched in full drag in defiance of the Ku Klux Klan in Birmingham, Alabama."

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Vegas, from page 29

kissed me, putting her tongue in my mouth. I thought to myself, 'Oh yuck. This is gross!'

At 17, Jahna graduated from high school and moved to California. In 1983 she had the surgery that turned her from a male to a female.

"When I awoke, I was terrified," she confessed. "But the doctor told me everything had worked out wonderfully. My years of agony and self-doubt were over. My dream was now real."

"I felt like Cinderella when she finally puts on the glass slipper."

Cosmetic surgery on her face and other body parts followed.

"I've had three 'boob jobs' since becoming a woman," Jahna disclosed. "I kept getting them bigger and better. Until I looked like Barbie I just couldn't stop."

At last, the transformation complete, Jahna started dating. The Cinderella found her Prince Charming and became a bride in 1985!

Unfortunately Jahna did not live happily ever after. She and her husband David Alan Steele divorced after five years.

Today Jahna is dating a 23-year-old bodybuilder named Tony Fabrizio. She hopes to remarry, adopt a baby girl and become a mom.

Said Jahna: "I want a little girl to primp, pamper and fuss over. I want to give her the childhood I never had."

— JEROME GEORGE

#245 Randi

Tall, shy, brunette, TS. 40, submissive, discreet, lonesome. Conservative dresser, pursuing passability. Enjoy creative arts, cooking, outdoors, and friendly gentlemen. Send letter/photo, Will travel.

#246 Dee Dee T.

#247 Randi

#250 Joanne

#253 Michele

Submissive T/V, 40, tall, slim, wishes to meet Dominate. Sensitive, clean, healthy and have genuine desire to explore fantasies. Love to have a good time.

#255 Melanie

#257 Melissa

#260 Justine

#263 Trisha

Bi/TV, 36, Would like to meet someone to teach me how to apply makeup.

#264 Judy Wong

#265 Shirley

#266 Frieda

#267 Sandra

#268 Michelle

33, TV, Hetero, 5'9" / 157 lb. Love femininity, have enjoyed C/Ding but in the closet! Time to come out! Need support from sisters in the Northwest.

#269 Barbara

Married Hetero TV, wishes to correspond and meet with other TV's to discuss various aspects of our lifestyle.

#270 Dagmar

#271 Jennifer

#272 Monica

#273 Lyla

Tall, Trim, Married TV, mid 40's. Interested in all aspects of femininity and passability. Wish to correspond with open and honest people of like interests.

#274 Angella

#275 Karan

#276 Amber Jones

#277 Angelica

#278 Sonya

#279 Dani

#280 Wendy Wyld

#281 Chantel

#282 Diane

#283 Vikky

#284 Joan

#285 Judy

#286 Susan

#287 Jasmine

#288 Jennifer

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#1002 Leanne - Winnipeg, Man.

Hi! Do you need help with your clothes or makeup? I can help. I am a hairdresser and makeup artist. So please send me a photo of yourself, and a token of \$20.00, you'll get mine, my home phone number and address. Send S.A.S.E. Large size for photo.

#1003 Eden

Coping with crossdressing? I can help, your welcome to my home, makeup, and clothes, or just to shop for you. Send photo if you can, list your needs etc. and S.A.S.E. with \$20.00 for my photos and information on cost for time very well spent.

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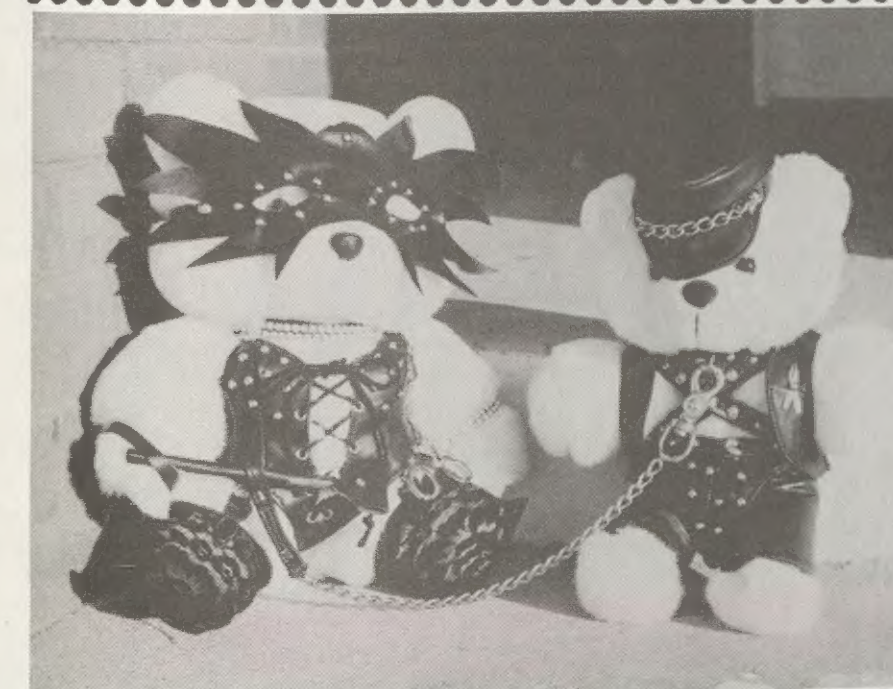
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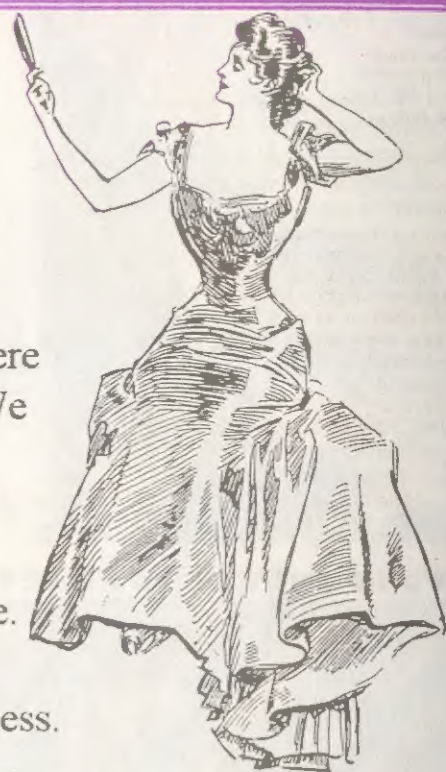
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